

## The Knoxville Independent

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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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District 19.

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ERATOR OF LABOR.

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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR KENTUCKY

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Three independent iron mining companies operating in the Minnesota fields have raised wages 10 per cent.

There were 46,306 railroad switchmen employed in the United States last year, of whom 12,687 were foremen.

A Massachusetts shoemaking concern operating five factories in various towns has granted a bonus of 10 per cent to employees.

The National Women's Trade Union league wants congress to establish an eight hour day for women the product of whose labor goes into interstate commerce.

Directors of the Western Union Telegraph company decided to grant bonuses to 24,000 employees. Messengers will receive about \$25 each, employees receiving less than \$1,200 a year 7 per cent of their yearly pay and those receiving between \$1,200 and \$2,000 a year 6 per cent.

## HOPE FOR HALF HOLIDAY.

Government Employees Also Looking For a Pay Increase.

President Wilson has not abandoned his purpose to try to work out a plan for a Saturday half holiday in the government service all the year round and expects to take up the matter at his earliest convenience. He has gone so far as to say that he is deeply interested in the project and is satisfied that he will be able to arrange the Saturday half holiday before long.

The president's definite statement of his purpose to give Saturday half holidays all the year to government workers who can be spared from their desks was made to a committee from the American Federation of Labor, headed by Samuel Gompers, who called on various matters in which the federation is interested. Mr. Gompers mentioned the Saturday half holiday proposition as one in which the federation felt much concern and sympathy.

Many government employees have lately expressed the hope that the president's probable action in granting half holidays will not adversely influence the efforts that will be made in congress to increase the pay of Uncle Sam's workers.

Letter Carriers and A. F. of L. Another referendum on the proposal of joining the American Federation of Labor will probably be held by the National Association of Letter Carriers following the next convention. Preceding the first referendum all argument that might enlighten the members is said to have been stifled, but the demand for affiliation has now become so insistent that it will receive attention.

SHORTER DAY  
IS GOOD POLICY

Tendency of the Time Is Toward Lessening Hours of Toil.

## MANY WORKMEN AFFECTED

Reports From International Unions Show That Nearly Half a Million of Members of Organized Trades Have Received Reductions In Labor Hours. Movement Has Become Nation Wide.

By DOROTHY KIRCHWEY BROWN In Survey.

"Berlin factory puts 4,000 women workers on eight hour day."

So runs a note in the New York Times of last July. Even under the pressure of war a German arms factory reduces the hours of its workers to eight a day. The tendency of the time is too potent to be altogether checked. And it is safe to assume that when hours are shortened in a munitions factory of a belligerent country it is not mere sentimentalism that is at work.

To what extent is the United States showing this same tendency, this conviction that shorter hours are good policy? In April of last year a report was made in the Survey showing the progress that had been made toward shorter working hours in the United States in 1915. This article concludes by stating that "in the last ten months nearly 100,000 men and women have won the eight hour day."

Information has been obtained from state bureaus of labor, from chambers of commerce, from trade unions, from individual firms, and the net result is a realization of the nation wide sweep of the movement to shorten working hours and to penalize long hours by treating them as overtime. This movement is shown in cases where unions are powerful and have forced concessions from employers; it is shown in partly organized trades where employers have granted shorter hours to forestall demands already imminent; it is shown quite as markedly in the numerous cases where the employees, though not organized at all, have been given shorter hours through the entirely voluntary action of their employers. Comprehensive statistics are not obtainable on this subject; records are kept of current events by only a few of the state statistical bureaus; trade union memberships vary from day to day, so that it is almost impossible to report definitely how many men were affected by the shorter hours.

The best figures we have, however, come from the annual report of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor issued Nov. 13, 1915, and dealing with the twelve months from September, 1915, to September, 1916. Thirty-five of the national and international unions directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor report a reduction in hours for part or all of their members. Many others report that organized members of their trades work shorter hours than unorganized ones and report also a large increase in membership, which, of course, implies shorter hours for the new members.

A careful study of the figures in the reports of these national and international unions shows that approximately 400,000 of their members had their hours of work reduced during the year. This does not include the potential reduction of hours of the four great railroad brotherhoods by the Adamson law, but does include the 150,000 anthracite coal miners, whose hours were shortened April 1, 1916, by the agreement between the coal operators and the United Mine Workers of America.

Aside from the miners, a conservative estimate gives us some 200,000 of the most highly organized workers in this country whose hours have been reduced in the past year—to say nothing of those who are not organized or whose unions are not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, who would greatly increase the total. The amount of the decrease ranged from the one hour a week gained by some 80,000 members of the Ladies Garment Workers' union, whose weekly hours were reduced from fifty to forty-nine, to the twenty-four hours a week of the 880 stationary firemen whose working day was changed from twelve to eight hours.

The workers who benefited most from reduced hours were the teamsters with an increase in membership of nearly 7,000; the garment workers and tailors; the textile workers, 70,000 of whom secured the fifty-four hour week; the paper makers and the pulp, sulphite and paper mill workers, whose hours were reduced from twelve to eight, and the electrical workers, lathers, metal polishers and machinists. Forty thousand of the last named now enjoy the eight hour day; 10,000 have gained it since Jan. 1, 1916.

Among the other national and international unions which report shortened hours are the bakers, boot and shoe workers, railway carmen, carriage and wagon workers, wood carvers, railway clerks, diamond workers, cloth hat and cap makers, laundry workers, lithographers, pattern makers, powder and high explosive workers and tobacco workers.

Our figures have so far not taken into account the twenty-odd local unions directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (not affiliated through a national or international union), which report shortened hours.

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## LATE NEWS

CONDENSED

Happenings Over Commonwealth as Gleaned from Various Places

Knoxville.—The remaining clubs in Knoxville who were serving liquor under the locker system have discontinued the service.

Memphis.—Mistaking a gasoline can for one containing kerosene, Luther Seal suffered burns from which he died at St. Joseph's hospital.

Newbern.—The entire property of the Dyer county fair association has been sold at auction at Dyersburg and the organization was discontinued.

Knoxville.—Seven and a half carloads of coal have been distributed to the poor of Knoxville already this winter by the Salvation Army, the associated charities and other organizations.

Huntingdon.—The financial reports of the ten banks in Carroll county show that they have more money on deposit than at any time of their history.

Nashville.—At a meeting of the County Judges' association of Tennessee here the antifeel bill pending before the legislature was unanimously indorsed.

Chattanooga.—Graysville, in Rhea county, is now an incorporated town, having taken advantage of the bill of incorporation passed by the present legislature.

Springfield.—Lem F. Bell of this place is in receipt of a telegram from Congressman Joseph W. Byrns, in which he gives hope of early free delivery for Springfield.

Knoxville.—As a result of an explosion in Loudon mine near Ducktown, John and Henry Simonds were instantly killed and a third miner named Smith was perhaps fatally injured.

Chattanooga.—Union machinists in the war munitions department of the Columbus Iron works were granted an eight-hour working day effective February 1. Three eight-hour shifts will be employed daily.

Nashville.—Charged with having swindled a number of Nashville merchants, Clara Harrison, a pretty 13-year-old girl, was arrested and locked up at the police station. She is charged with grand larceny.

Nashville.—Twenty-five per cent of the West campus students of Vanderbilt university are earning money while in school to help pay their expenses, according to a report just issued by the alumni secretary.

Chattanooga.—Perhaps the longest run ever made in Tennessee by a messenger boy was that accomplished by Charley Wallace, who made the run from Chattanooga to Atlanta on a motorcycle to carry a moving picture screen which was advertised to be produced.

Lynchburg.—The humble mule never showed to better advantage than when interested buyers gathered from a dozen states to attend the mule sale at the farm of Lem Motlow. Two hundred and seventy-five head of mules were sold under the hammer for upward of \$60,000.

Memphis.—William H. Taylor, a deputy sheriff, died at St. Joseph's hospital from a pistol wound in the head. The shot was fired by B. Browning, 61 years old, a florist. Browning is locked up at the central police station on a charge of murder. Jealousy over a young wife, police say, is responsible for the killing of the officer.

Union City.—Johnny Ivy Brewer, 40, prominent merchant of Rives, Tenn., was brought here seriously injured from a gunshot wound it is alleged by one of two brothers, Harvey Simmons and Tinchon Simmons. It is claimed that the two brothers in an intoxicated condition entered the Brewer store and engaged in an altercation with Mr. Brewer over some trivial matter.

Cleveland.—Dr. J. L. Mackey, a prominent physician of this county, residing near Charleston, received serious injury in an accident at Calhoun. While driving along in his car he was caught by three telephone wires which were being strung across the pike road and were elevated just enough to jerk the doctor's hands from the steering wheel and throw him to the back of the car with terrific force. One rib was broken and his spine injured to the extent that paralysis is feared.

## GAS SHORT IN TEUTON TOWNS

Kiel and Other Cities Are Reported Facing Possible Darkness—Warnings Issued.

Copenhagen, Feb. 1.—According to the Schleswische Nachrichten, the gas supply of the whole province of Schleswig-Holstein is becoming exceedingly scarce. The largest towns including Kiel, have issued warnings to save to the utmost possible and retire before nine o'clock. It is expected that street lighting will be suspended in a number of towns in February.

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## Our Query and Reply Department

What was the first newspaper published in the United States? The Boston News-Letter; began publication in 1704, suspended 1774.

Has Dr. Mary Walker permission from the United States government to wear the costume of a male? Can such a privilege be obtained from the government and, if so, how?

Dr. Mary Walker was assistant surgeon in the civil war. Congress granted her a medal, a small pension and the privilege she especially sought of lawfully wearing male attire. It is conceivable that by similar act of congress another woman might be authorized to wear trousers.

How long did the siege of Petersburg, Va., last during the civil war? Did it end with the celebrated mine explosion?

The siege began about the 20th of June, 1864, and the mine was exploded July 30, but Petersburg was not captured then. The mine consisted of a shaft 520 feet long, with branches forty feet in each direction, and was charged with 8,000 pounds of powder. Its explosion made a crater in the Confederate works 200 feet long by 60 feet wide and killed a great many men, but the Federal attack that followed the explosion failed, and Petersburg was not evacuated until April 2, 1865.

Will you please tell me how the mines at sea that are the terror of battleships are made to explode?

In size the average submarine mine is some four or five feet in diameter. It is charged with a high explosive, mostly of the type known to experts as picric explosives. The method by which it is discharged is not the force of the blow with which the ship strikes it. The most common device is explosion by the completion of an electric circuit. In order to achieve this a circuit is set up with a certain gap in it. Somewhere inside the mine is a column of mercury, the head of which is at one end of this gap in the circuit. As long as the mine remains upright or roughly upright the mercury is only slightly affected, but when the pressure of an advancing vessel coming in contact with the mine tilts it over the mercury also is tilted so as to come into contact with the other end of the gap in the electric circuit, the circuit is completed and the mine explodes.

It formerly was taught in school books that Pennsylvania was named by or for William Penn, founder of the state, but of late years I have read differently. What are the facts?

The name originated with King Charles II, who granted the charter of the colony, and it was given in honor of Admiral Penn, father of William, and a notable man in his day.

Kindly tell me the meaning of "laissez faire," which I see quoted in the newspapers.

"Laissez faire" is French for "let alone." In political economy it means noninterference with the natural laws of production and commerce. Those who believe in "laissez faire" have faith that natural laws are better than man made laws, especially in the realm of political economy. The consistent champion of "laissez faire" is opposed to all statutes which interfere with freedom of trade. He would have no protective tariff, no "factory acts," no labor legislation, no anti-trust laws—nothing which would interfere with buying or selling labor and its products with perfect freedom for buyer and for seller. That policy, he thinks, would in the long run yield the greatest prosperity and happiness and result in peace and friendship between the nations. The pronunciation is lay-say fair.

How much coal is produced in the world in a year? Nearly 1,340,000,000 tons of 2,000 pounds were produced in 1914.

Is it patriotic to stand up in a theater when the "Star Spangled Banner" is played?

Yes. It is now customary for all to rise as a mark of respect to the flag when the "Star Spangled Banner" is played. It is now regarded as our national anthem. Whenever it is played military men stand until the last note of the song.

Did postage stamps ever circulate as money in this country?

They were so utilized to some extent for a short time. At the beginning of the civil war, immediately after specie payments were suspended early in 1862, gold and silver disappeared from circulation. The absence of small silver coins caused such inconvenience that congress authorized the use of postage stamps for change. They were used only a short time, and congress soon provided for the issue of paper money, called postal currency or fractional currency, in denominations corresponding to the small silver coins which had gone out of use.

Was Miss Maria Mitchell, the astronomer, related to Professor O. M. Mitchell, also an astronomer?

No. She was a daughter of William Mitchell, a Quaker teacher of Massachusetts, and Professor O. M. Mitchell was born in New York. Miss Mitchell is the only American woman that ever won foreign recognition by her astronomical discoveries or who received the degree of LL. D. The king of Denmark awarded her a gold medal, and during her travels in Europe she was the guest of noted foreign astronomers.

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## "MADE IN AMERICA"

"Made In Europe"  
No Longer!

Merchants and consumers the country over are quickly picking up the slogan "Made In America." They see in it more money for America, and that means for themselves. Friends, learn not only to do without costly imported goods, but to demand home-made goods entirely. It'll pay you. Join the movement now!

Does Washington, the national capital, have what is called the commission form of government? What is the so called city manager plan?

(1) It has a commission form of government, but not the form commonly so called. It is governed by three commissioners. Two of them are appointed from civil life by the president of the United States, and the third is an officer detailed from the engineer corps of the army. The two commissioners appointed from civil life must have been for three years residents of the District of Columbia (the city of Washington embraces the entire district), and the third commissioner must have served at least fifteen years in the engineer corps of the army. The constitution of the United States empowers congress "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever" over the District of Columbia, and it defines the powers and prescribes the duties of the commissioners appointed by the president. It really is congressional government by an executive committee.

(2) An act of the Ohio legislature approved May 6, 1913, provided for a form of municipal government to be known as the "city manager plan," the council to consist of five members in cities of less than 10,000 inhabitants, of seven members in cities of from 10,000 to 25,000 inhabitants and of nine members in cities having over 25,000 inhabitants, the council being elected in all cases for a term of four years. This council is to constitute a governing body, with power to pass ordinances, adopt regulations, appoint a chief administrative officer to be known as the "city manager," fix his salary, approve all appointments made by him (except as otherwise provided) and appoint a civil service commission and all boards of commissions created by ordinances. The law left it optional with the people of a city to adopt this form of government or the commission form.

Where does the expression "plain living and high thinking" come from?

It occurs in a short poem by Wordsworth, in which, deploring the degeneracy of the times, he says: The wealthiest man among us is the best. No grandeur now in nature or in book. Delights us. Rapine, avarice, expense. This is idleness, and these things we adore; Plain living and high thinking are no more.

What was the condition of the American army when it went into winter quarters at Valley Forge?

That was the winter of 1777-8. In December, 1777, Washington wrote: "We had in camp on the 23d inst. by a field return then taken, not less than 27,000 men unfit for duty by reason of being barefoot and otherwise naked. Besides this number, sufficiently distressing of itself, there are many others detained in hospitals and crowded into farmers' houses for the same causes." In a letter to Governor Livingston of New York Washington said: "I sincerely feel for the unhappy condition of our poor fellows in the hospitals and wishing power to relieve them were equal to my inclination. Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great and such as wound the feelings of humanity—our sick naked, our well naked, our unfortunate men in captivity naked!" The commissary of the army reported to General Washington: "Many of the troops are destitute of meat and are several days in arrears. The horses are dying for want of forage. The country in the vicinity of the camp is exhausted." In a letter to Governor Clinton General Washington urged prompt action and said: "For some days past there has been little less than a famine in camp; a part of the camp has been a week without any kind of meat and the rest three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this time excited by their sufferings to a general mutiny and dispersion."

How does the saying originate about the danger of swapping horses in the middle of a stream?

The origin of the proverb is not known, but it was Abraham Lincoln who made it famous. When congratulated by a visiting delegation upon his nomination for a second term on June 9, 1864, Mr. Lincoln said, "I have not permitted myself, gentlemen, to conclude that I am the best man in this country, but I am reminded in this connection of the story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to a companion that it was not best to swap horses when crossing a stream."

Being a Spanish war veteran, how must I go to work to secure a pension?

A survivor of the war with Spain is entitled to a pension on account of any existing disability in a pensionable degree which was incurred in the line of duty in the military or naval branch of the United States. The employment of an attorney is optional with an applicant, who may write to the commission of pensions, Washington, stating his claim, the organization in which he served and length of service. He will then be furnished with the proper blanks and fully advised as to the evidence necessary to complete his claim.

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What is known as the year of great babies?

The year 1769 was the "year of great babies." At one date or another in that year were born Napoleon, the Duke of Wellington, Marshal Ney, Bourrienne, Marshal Soult, Chateaubriand, De Witt Clinton, Frederick Accum, Cuvier, the naturalist; Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy, Alexander Humboldt, Count Lavalette, the diplomatist; Mehemet Ali, pasha of Egypt; Picard, the French dramatist, and many others distinguished in various lines of life.

Has "The Star Spangled Banner" been accepted by the United States as the national anthem?

"The Star Spangled Banner" is recognized by the United States navy regulations as the national air, article 1172 of the regulations providing as follows:

Whenever "The Star Spangled Banner" is played on board a vessel of the navy at a naval station, or at any place where persons belonging to the naval service are present in their official capacity, or present unofficially but in uniform, all officers and enlisted men present shall stand at attention, facing toward the colors, or, if no colors, the music, retaining that position until the last note of the air, then, if covered, salute. The same respect will be observed toward the national air of any other country when it is played as a compliment to official representatives of that country. When played by a naval band under the circumstances contemplated by this paragraph, "The Star Spangled Banner" shall be played through without repetition of any part not required to be repeated to make the air complete.

How does the government issue postage stamps? Is there a value besides the paper and labor in making them before they are put in circulation?

Postage stamps are prepared in the bureau of printing and engraving in Washington, and that bureau is the only one prepared to furnish details concerning the cost of production of postage stamps. Generally speaking the money value indicated by the denomination of a stamp is an entirely arbitrary value, since in itself a stamp is worth only the value of the paper and the cost of labor entering into its production.

When did the prince of Wales, afterward King Edward VII. of England, visit the United States? Did anything unpleasant happen during his visit to this country?

His visit was during September, 1890. He entered the United States at Detroit, where he was met by Lord Lyons, then British minister at Washington, and proceeded to Washington by way of Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. Everything was pleasant in this country, and President James Buchanan gave the prince a cordial reception at Washington.

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